paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

In the Specification:

Please insert the following paragraph at page 1, after the title:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

C 1

This is a 371 of PCT/US98/03685, filed February 26, 1998, published in English on September 3, 1998, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application 60/038,908, filed February 26, 1997.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 7-9, and 14-34.

Please substitute the following claim 1 for the pending claim 1:

sub D1 C2

1. (Once amended) A DNA construct, which comprises a DNA molecule of SEQ ID NO:1 or a DNA molecule which is at least 40% homologous thereto, or a fragment thereof, wherein said DNA molecule is under control of a heterologous neuro-specific promoter, and wherein said DNA molecule codes for a protein that has an activity of AD7c-NTP when expressed in neuronal cells.

Please substitute the following claim 3 for the pending claim 3:

3. (Once amended) The DNA construct of claim 1, which is contained by a virion.

Please substitute the following claim 4 for the pending claim 4:

4. (Once amended) The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein said DNA molecule has SEQ ID NO:1.

Please substitute the following claim 10 for the pending claim 10:

10. (Once Amended) An *in vitro* method for screening a candidate drug that is potentially useful for the treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease, neuroectodermal tumors, malignant astrocytomas, and glioblastomas, which comprises:

(a) contacting a candidate drug with the host cell of claim 5, and

(b) detecting at least one of the following:

(i) the suppression or prevention of expression of the protein coded for by the DNA construct of said host cell;

(ii) the increased degradation of the protein coded for by the DNA construct of said host cell; or

(iii) the reduction of frequency of atleast one of neuritic sprouting, nerve cell death, degenerating neurons, neurofibrillary tangles, or irregular swollen neurites and axons in the host;

due to the drug candidate compared to a control cell line which has not contacted the candidate drug.

Please substitute the following claim 11 for the pending claim 11:

11. (Once amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said protein has SEQ ID NO:2.

Please add the following claims:

35. (New) The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein said activity of AD7c-NTP is selected from the group consisting of neuritic sprouting, nerve cell death, nerve cell degeneration, neurofibrillary tangles, and irregular swollen neurites.

36. (New) The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein said DNA molecule codes for a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof.

37. (New) The DNA construct of claim 1, wherein said DNA molecule consists of the DNA molecule of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof.

38. (New) The DNA construct of claim 37, wherein said DNA molecule codes for a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof.